GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5811
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2002
SLOW PACE OF PROCUREMENT OF RICE
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the slow pace of procurement of rice in some States and particularly in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to procure rice from the open market;

(d) if so, the reasons for not procuring rice directly from the farmers; and

(e) the steps taken to protect the interests of the farmers while procuring rice?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a): No, Sir. The procurement of rice by FCI and State Agencies has not been slow.As on 29.4.2002, a quantity of 172.15 lakh tonnes of rice has been procured in the country as compared to a quantity of 161.64 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. As regards, Orissa, as on 26.4.2002 a quantity of 7.60 lakh tonnes of levy rice has been procured by FCI as compared to a quantity of 5.60 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): No such proposal has been finalized by the Government at present.

(d): Does not arise in view of reply to (c) above.

(e): State Governments have been advised to issue instructions to the District Collectorsto ensure that enforcement certificates are issued after thorough probe that the procurement of paddy from the farmers has been made by the concerned millers on payment of Minimum support Price, and that their milling record is commensurate with the quantity of rice sought to be delivered under levy. The Collectors should be made personally accountable for the genuineness of each case of issue of enforcement certificates. Besides FCI has also been advised to verify the details before they accept and act upon the enforcement certificates issued by theCollectors. In addition, restrictions on the movement of rice and paddy from one district to another district has been removed.